

Otford Parish Council
Draft minutes of the Recreation Committee 9th February 2015

Present: Cllrs Cracknell, Evans, Marsh, Parish Clerk, Mike Richards (OAA) for part of the meeting only, Kay Drake (OSA).

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Fothergill & Howe, Roger Beasley (Parish Agent)

2. The minutes of the previous meeting on 1.12.14 were approved.

3. There were no matters arising that were not due to be dealt with on the agenda.

4. **Allotments:**

3.1 The Parish Agents report was considered together with the report from the OAA

3.2 There are currently 3 x 5rod plots available to let in Mill Meadow and one on the Recreation site, these will be advertised in the Chronicle. A sketch map of the proposed moving of the vehicular gate and siting of a pedestrian gate was submitted. Costings for the pedestrian gate has been sent to OPC.

The water tanks are still awaiting replacements and there are 4 taps which need to be replaced in order to be compliant. The spraying of vacant plots has taken place. An 18 tree cobnut platt has been planted by members of the OAA.

Concern was expressed over the state of the car park as a number of vehicles have been stuck in the mud. The OAA would like to revisit the possibility scraping off the top and putting down some and at least 100mm of Type 1 MOT granular material spread and compacted over the area. OAA are to seek quotations for this work. Funding for this work was earmarked previously. Various tree works have been carried out on the borders of the site.

5. **OSA:**

5.1 The following points from the OSA report were discussed: The football club have again asked if they could put up a post and rail fence to discourage people from using the main football pitch, and deter vandals who have driven a vehicle all over the Recreation ground. In particular deterring people from running around the pitch and making the touchlines muddy which makes it difficult to mark the pitch out. Whilst sympathetic to their problem, the recommendation to Council is to review the situation if they go up into the next league, being mindful that this is a public area for all to enjoy.

The Cricket Club has found a contractor with a tractor who is willing to cut the outfield, but would like to use the OPC mower in the tractor shed. In principle providing that appropriate insurance and training etc is up to date the committee felt that this could be possible. The contract for the other grass cutting has expired – Landscape services have submitted a price for the next contract period?

The Petanque club have asked that they be allowed to replace boarding around the edge of the terroire. They have sought quotes and a recommendation that railway sleepers would be appropriate. They are funding themselves and just seek approval from OPC to have the work done.

5.2 Councillor Cracknell will be looking at the current agreement over the football pavilion which expires in 2016 and report back to the next Recreation committee meeting.

6. Recreation Ground

The area is generally looking good thanks go to the football clubs for their tending of their areas. Vandalism has taken place in the children's play area – repairs to both are in hand - thanks go to BT for his prompt attention. With the light in the car park now working again – (the switch having been turned off) it is hoped that this will deter the vandals. Should the light switch be in a more secure place or boxed in?

7. Chalk Pit

The area from the bonfire still has not been made good, so the turves need to be cleared before mowing commences in the spring. Also the grass underneath the turves may not be in a good state. The scouts will be asked to deal with this as well as replacing the padlock on the gate.

8. Hale Lane

Nil to be reported

9. Youth Activities

9.2 Family fun days booked for:

10 AOB: Centenary Fields: Cllr Cracknell reported back that he can see no advantage in pursuing this.

Ted Hewitt's (former Allotmenteer/groundsman) ashes due to be interred with those of his parents at St Bartholomew's on Wednesday 11.2.15 at 14.30pm.

11. DONM Monday 30th March 6.00pm